

1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?

I worked as a Government Relations consultant to help businesses and non-for-profit organisations connect with the federal and Ontario government.

2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?

Yes, I live in Russell with my family. I have lived in the riding my entire life, except while attending post-secondary school in Ottawa.

3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?

I organize a golf tournament in support of United Way. We've raised over \$60,000 for youth programming in the last four years.

4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?

The debate regarding same-sex marriage in 2004-05 has had a big impression on my political thinking. I remember Paul Martin telling young liberals at the time, we were the ones who keep rocking the boat in our party. I witnessed the profound impact politics can have on people's lives. This guides my political thinking today. Change doesn't come easy but when you organize, educate and advocate, you have a successful recipe for change.

5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?

I don't have one but have many. I've limited it to two. Nelson Mandela who spent a good part of his life in prison and yet still found wisdom to serve his country to improve the lives of its people. Jean Chretien who was Prime Minister and people still called him ti-Jean. In politics, politicians must remain approachable no matter the titles you hold.

6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?

The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is an important measure which is helping 20,030 children in Glengarry-Prescott-Russell and giving 90% of families more money in their pockets. The next step we're proposing is a tax cut, where a middle class family gets \$600 and the wealthiest one per cent get zero. We will make sure middle class individuals pay no federal taxes on the first \$15,000 they earn.

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?

I believe that a big part of the disillusion within the electorate derives from the growing partisanship in Canadian politics. One of the first thing I did as an MP was change the signage of my constituency offices to a neutral colour so that everyone, including people who didn't vote for me, could feel welcomed at my office. Today, compromise and collaboration are seen as a synonym for weakness rather than leadership. I've worked across party lines on issues that impact my community and will continue to do so if re-elected.